श्री महेश्वर सिंह (हिमाचल प्रदेश): भूमि पूजन से आपको क्या आपत्ति है। भूमि पूजन कोई धर्म नहीं है यह हमारी संस्कृति है ...(व्यवधान)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM) Please sit down now. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI R.K. KUMAR (Tamil Nadu) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, with due respect to my hon. Colleague, I think it is a totally wrong notion to associate *bhoomi pooja* with any religion. There is no religion involved in it. You do not light a lamp in a temple only and if you light a lamp in a function, it doesn't become a religious function. *(Interruptions)* It is customary to organise inaugurations so that things go well. When you start a project, you wish that it does well. *Bhoomi pooja* is *a pooja* and there is no communal or religious thing involved in it. That is what I wanted to say.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): Before we adjourn for lunch ... *(Interrutptions)...*

श्री नारायण प्रसाद गुप्ता: यह कोई मजहब का सवाल नहीं है।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री मोहम्मद सलीम): बस अब हो गया।

Please sit down. *(Interrutptions)* Sit down. *(Interrutptions)* The matter is over. Mr. Chandradeo Prasad Varma will introduce the Bill now.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE PANCHAYATS (EXTENSION TO THE SCHEDULED AREAS BILL) 1996

ग्रामीण क्षेत्र और रोजगार मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री चंद्रदेव प्रसाद वर्मा): महोदय, मैं प्रस्ताव करता हूं कि पंचायतों से संबंधित संविधान के भाग 9 के उपबंधों का अनुसूचित क्षेत्रों पर विस्तार करने वाले पंचायत उपबंध (अनुसूचित क्षेत्रों पर विस्तार) विधेयक, 1996 [illegible]

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

श्री चंद्रदेव प्रसाद वर्मा: महोदय, मैं विधेयक को पुर:स्थापित करता हूं।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MD. SALIM): The House is adjourned for lunch for one hour.

The House adjourned for lunch at eight minutes past one of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at fourteen minutes past two of the clock [TheVice Chairman, (Shrimati Kamla Slnha) in the Chair.]

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA): The Minister of Finance is to lay the Budget (Uttar Pradesh) 1996-97.

Mr. Chidambaram.

THE BUDGET (UTTAR PRADESH) 1996-97

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table a statement (in English and Hindi) of the estimated receipts and expenditure of the Government of Uttar Pradesh for the year 1996-97 (Annual Financial Statement).

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SMT. KAMLA SINHA): Now, we will take up the Short Duration Discussion. Shri Gurudas Das Gupta.

श्री नारायण प्रसाद गुप्ता (मध्य प्रदेश): मैडम, स्पेशल मैंशंस कब लेने वाले हैं?

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्रीमती कमला सिन्हा) बाद में।

SHORT DURATION DISCUSSION on Government's Move to invite Private—Indian and Foreign Firms into-Insurance sector

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA (West Bengal): Madam, I thank you for inviting me to initiate a discussion on insurance in general and particularly on the question of inviting private firms. Indian and foreign, into the insurance sector. It is an important issue. It concerns insurance; it concerns millions of policy holders; it concerns the social welfare of the country; it concerns a vital part of the economic policy of the present Government. I never say that all is well in the insurance sector. Nowhere is all well. I say that the